

Department of Fine and Applied Arts proudly presents

Quilters

Book by
Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek
Music and Lyrics by Barbara Damashek

Director
Jeany Van Meltebeke

Musical Director
Tim Schirmer

Assistant Director/Design Head
Yelena V. Dosheva

Lighting Designer
Logan Shunmugam

November 19, 21, 22, 28, 29, December 4, 5, 6 at 8 p.m.
November 30 at 3 p.m.
Parkland College Theatre
1997



★ CAST ★

Sarah McKendree Bonham Janice Rothbaum
Her daughters Carol A. Becher, Susan D. Fortenberry,
Lauren Gasparo, Krista Motley,
Erin Marie Raftery, Gemma Anne Wall

This evening's performance is presented in two acts. There will be one 15-minute intermission. Refreshments will be available in the lobby.

★ QUILT BLOCKS ★

Act One

Rocky Road
Dugout
Babies Blocks
Shadow Block
Rebel Patch
Windmill
Robbing Peter to Pay Paul
Shadow Block
Butterfly
School House
Four Doves

Act Two

Lone Star
Double Wedding Rings
Secret Drawer
Log Cabin
Country Cross Roads
Crosses and Losses
Tree of Life

Quilts used in this production were created by the North Star Quilters of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and were provided by contract with the University of North Dakota.

★ ORCHESTRA ★

Conductor Tim Schirmer
Violin Violet Kois
Keyboard Julie Bearden Shaffer
Guitar/Mandolin/Bass Mark Zanter
Guitar/Banjo Bill Yauch
Percussion/Flute Mary Myers

★ DIRECTOR'S NOTES ★

I first encountered this show at the University of Oregon in 1991. I found myself drawn to the powerful simplicity and honesty of the stories. This is truly an actor's play. To get to play 15 different people/things in one show and have music! — it was more than I had imagined possible.

As a cast member at the University of Oregon, I participated with the director (Terra Pressler) and the rest of the cast in creating the shape, tone, and flavor of each scene. We had no idea of the emotional impact this play would have and how receptive the audience would be to its suggestive settings and non-linear plot. The returned warmth and thanks from the applause and letters confirmed it: this play had touched hearts.

I have never felt so connected to a cast as I was with *Quilters*. This play remains the most special experience I have ever had with theatre. My hope is that you will be touched by these pieces of lives and be inspired to uncover the stories hidden in your family heirlooms, and share them.

This play is dedicated to the memory of Grandma Armfield and her daughters Jackie, Patsy, Roberta, and Sara.

— J.V.

★ ABOUT THE AUTHORS ★

Molly Newman began her playwriting career as a co-author of *Quilters*, for which she was nominated for a Tony Award and a Helen Hayes Award. *Quilters* and her second play, *Shooting Stars*, have been produced at several regional theatres including the Mark Taper Forum, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Houston Alley Theatre, The Kennedy Center, The Denver Center Theatre Company, and The Pittsburgh Public Theatre. Other writing credits include the play *Yves*, and the television comedies *The Larry Sanders Show* and *Frasier*.

Barbara Damashek has worked extensively in the American regional theatre as a director, composer-lyricist, and writer. At the Denver Center, she created *Quilters* for which she received three Tony Award nominations (Best Director, Best Book, and Best Original Score). She has directed this play additionally at the Edinburgh Festival, The Pittsburgh Public Theatre, The Mark Taper Forum, and the Jack Lawrence Theatre in New York.

★ PRODUCTION STAFF ★

Production Stage Manager Joe Hodge*

Technical Director Martin M. Bluestein

House Manager Debbi Dillman

Assistant House Managers Amber Wightman*, Kay Valentine

Assistant Technical Director Mark Hudson*

Assistant Lighting Designer Benjamin Emerick

Pre-Production Stage Manager Kris Kirkwood*

Lighting Crew David Dillman, Carol Diss, Ann Hollwedel*
Aislinn O'Brien*, Dori Phelps*, Samantha White

Stage Run Crew Kara Hart*

Properties Run Crew Ann Hollwedel*

Makeup/Costume Run Crew Amy Schuster*

Build and Paint Crew Doug Albers*, Joie Devoney*, Carol Diss,
Kris Kirkwood*, Aislinn O'Brien*,
Dori Phelps*, Samantha White

Fly-rail Operator Bob Lee

**Theatre Scholarship Student*

★ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ★

**Marilyn Nash and the Illini Country Stitchers
North Star Quilters of Grand Forks, North Dakota
Curtis Orchards
Tom Mitchell
David James Snider
Becky Kollenberg
B. J. and Sean Sullivan
victoram
Bruce Hoover**

★ CAST PROFILES ★

Carol A. Becher, daughter of Mildred Merkley, daughter of Mathilda Klem (*Daughter*) Carol is self-employed and a single parent. She is following a new path which she has not had the opportunity to pursue. She has had the usual high school and college choral experience and is very happy to be a member of this wonderful cast.

Susan D. Fortenberry, daughter of Judy McCall, daughter of Elizabeth Weaver, daughter of Cora Brewer, daughter of Nina Miller (Daughter) Susan, originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, is excited to be in such a wonderful show and would like to thank her parents, Judy and Joe, for their continued, long distance support. Susan's recent performance credits include Parkland's *Quilt*, *Mrs. Coney*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*, and CUTC's most recent *Evita*. Susan works in commercial lending at Central Illinois Bank and in her "spare" time studies business marketing at Parkland. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!

Lauren Gasparo, daughter of Susanne Garcia, daughter of Amparo Macías, daughter of Guadalupe Macías, daughter of () Fernández (Daughter) Lauren Gasparo is a second-year MFA candidate at the University of Illinois. She was last seen as Mme. Knorr in the Station Theatre's *On the Razzle*. Other credits include Gussie in Parkland's *Merrily We Roll Along*, Julia in the Station's *The Fourth Wall*, and Beauty in IRT's *The Masque of Beauty and the Beast*.

Krista Motley, daughter of Kate Richards, daughter of Mary Louise Strejcek, daughter of Louise Figge (*Daughter*) Krista Motley is a junior theatre major at the University of Illinois. Her recent credits include the seamstress in *A Tale of Two Cities* with the Illinois Repertory Theatre, Christopher in *On the Razzle* with the Celebration Theatre Company, and Prudence in *Beyond Therapy* with the Penny Dreadful Players. Krista is delighted to be doing *Quilters* for the second time and to perform at Parkland for the first time.

Erin Marie Raftery, daughter of Virginia Wall, daughter of Holly Murphy (*Daughter*) Erin is a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in English/Pre-law. Past credits include Liesel in *The Sound of Music* and a flower girl and chorus in *My Fair Lady*. Directing credits include *Where Are You Going Hollis Jay?* Erin sang in the concert choir at Eastern Illinois University and received the Arion Vocal award in 1995. Her identical twin sister's name is Maureen and one of her character names in *Quilters* is Maureen!

Janice Rothbaum, daughter of Anna Goldman, daughter of Bella Pochapovsky (*Sarah McKendree Bonham*) Janice has lived a long time and has been in a heap of plays! Favorites have included *Mrs. Coney*, *Caged Vixens*, *Marvin's Room*, *All in the Timing*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Music Man*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Painting Churches*. She is thrilled that her children, grandchildren, in-laws, outlaws, and niece will be coming from all over the country to see *Quilters*. Love and thanks to Mel, Tim, Jeany, Randi, and Richard for their invaluable help and encouragement.

Gemma Anne Wall, daughter of Beryl Florence Eileen Canning, daughter of Dorothea Canning (*Daughter*) Gemma is a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Music and holds a bachelor's degree in Choral Music Education. She is happy to see old and new faces on the Parkland stage as she returns for her fourth Parkland show. Gemma's Parkland Theatre credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Lucky Stiff*, and *Labors of Love*. Thanks as always to Mum, Dad, Matthew, Randi, and Tim.

★ STAFF PROFILES ★

Jeany Van Meltebeke, daughter of Sara Elizabeth Armfield, daughter of Helen Francis Brown, daughter of Mary Lucinda McClung, daughter of Sara Townsend (*Director*) Jeany is finishing her third year in the MFA acting program at the University of Illinois. Her previous directing credits include Horton Foote's *The Tears of My Sister* at the Armory Free Theatre; *Out of the Dark*, a women's fine and performing arts piece, and *What is Home?*, both at the Backporch Theatre in Eugene, Oregon. At Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, she directed Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* and the courtroom scene from *The Merchant of Venice*. She often enjoys designing her own sets and choreography. Her first love, however, is acting. You may have seen her here at Parkland last November in *Quilt* (not to be confused with *Quilters*, but with the same symbolic threads).

Tim Schirmer, son of Dolores Braxmeier, daughter of Vernelle Christmann, daughter of Katherine Kunz (*Musical Director*) Tim Schirmer has worked as composer/musical director for a variety of theatre and production companies throughout the Midwest over the past 20 years. As a composer his works have received performances on a regional and national level including the award-winning PBS film documentary *The Greatest Lakes; Portrait of a Prairie Capitol* at the Old State Capitol in Springfield; four musicals: *The Book of Dreams* and *Futures* with collaborator Kirk Hard and *Five Golden Rings* and *Labors of Love* with Cheri Coons and more than 15 scores for the Tony-nominated American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. As musical director his most recent work has been at Wisdom Bridge Theatre in Chicago where he received two Jeff Award nominations for the premiere productions of *Forever Plaid* and *Falsettoland* with director Jeff Ortmann. Tim has been musical director at Parkland for *Sweeney Todd*, *Chicago*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and many other productions. Tim holds a BA in Music Theory from St. Louis University and both the MMus and DMA in Composition from the University of Illinois at Urbana and currently teaches at Parkland College.

Yelena V. Dosheva, daughter of Janna S. Nasikovskaya, daughter of Liyah M. Shteinberg (*Assistant Director/Design Head*) Yelena came to the United States from Eastern Europe where she worked in theatre and movies. She holds an MFA in costume design from the University of Illinois. Yelena designed costumes for *Right You Are* and *Mad Forest* at the Krannert Center. This is her first show at Parkland but hopefully not the last. She is happy to be here and is always open for new projects.

Martin M. Bluestein, son of Sandra Elaine, daughter of Rhea, daughter of Sarah (*Technical Director*) Martin would like to welcome his sisters, Caryn and Sharon, to the show and assure them that he is only under the control of the Goddess of Sight, Michelle, not the Royal Ladies of the Theatre, Carol, Dori, and Sam. After receiving his MFA at Florida State University, then working at The Juilliard School in New York City and The Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts, he tried out for the part of "Animal" for the Muppets. However, he was found to be overqualified and ended up here at Parkland. He is currently practicing his Muppet Dance in hopes of another shot at the role.

Logan Shunmugam (*Lighting Designer*) - Logan is currently pursuing an MFA in Lighting Design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a freelance designer in South Africa and works for the University of Durban-Westville theatre department.

Joe Hodge, son of Pam Walcott, daughter of Ida Miller, daughter of Leona Heins, daughter of Anna Wardelman (*Stage Manager*) Joe's third production at Parkland would have been more enjoyable if he was on stage, but the casting wouldn't allow men! So he'll just run things back stage with his first big stage manager's job.

Celebrating 10 years! Department of Fine and Applied Arts Theatre productions:

1987 - 1997

Hamlet Revamped, Modernized and Set to Music, 1987

Futures, 1987

The Diviners, 1987

Native Son, 1987

Cinderella, 1988

Before It Hits Home, 1988

The Nerd, 1988

The Philanthropist, 1988

The Gift of the Magi, 1988

A Christmas Memory, 1988

Painting Churches, 1989

Chicago, 1989

Ten Little Indians, 1990

Something's Afoot, 1991

Play It Again Sam, 1991

The Fantastiks!, 1992

Godspell, 1992

Agnes of God, 1993

Count Dracula, 1993

Noises Off, 1993

Five Golden Rings, 1993

The Diary of Anne Frank, 1994

I Hate Hamlet, 1994

Sweeney Todd, 1994

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, 1994

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, 1995

Dancing at Lughnasa, 1995

Talk Radio, 1995

Stories Like Ours, 1995

Lucky Stiff, 1995

The Real Inspector Hound, 1996

Labors of Love, 1996

Beyond Therapy, 1996

Quilt, 1996

Mrs. Coney, 1996

Merrily We Roll Along, 1997

Drop Dead!, 1997

10 Ten Minute Plays, 1997

The Scamps of Scapin, 1997

★ 1997-1998 SEASON CONTRIBUTORS ★

The following individuals are very important participants in the success of Parkland College Theatre. We proudly acknowledge our contributors.

For information about how to join this special group, please call 351-2476. Donor cards are also available in the lobby.

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Man of La Mancha



Book by Dale Wasserman • Music by Mitch Leigh
Lyrics by Joe Darion

Director: Randi Collins Hard • Musical Director: Tim Schirmer
Choreographer: Robin Levine

"An incredible journey... If you've never seen it you must!"
— New York Times

PARKLAND COLLEGE THEATRE

February 18 10¢ preview performance at 8 p.m.
February 20, 21, 27, 28, March 5, 6, 7 at 8 p.m. and March 1 at 3 p.m.
Thursday, March 5, tickets '2 for 1'
Reservations: 351-2528

The author, Cervantes, is magically transformed into his character, Don Quixote, in this timeless American musical. Quixote and his loveable servant, Sancho, battle wind-mills, Moors, and the fantastic Enchanter to achieve "The Impossible Dream."

THEATRE STAFF

Artistic Director Randi Jennifer Collins Hard
Technical Director Martin M. Bluestein
House Manager Debbi Dillman
Special Events Technicians Darren Cloud, David Dillman, Jeff Durbin, Ford
Twaranovica, Teresa Van Wakeman

THEATRE ADVISORY BOARD

Martin Bluestein	Kris Kirkwood, student rep.	Carl Meyer, ex officio
Debbi Dillman	George Johnston	Tim Schirmer
Randi Jennifer Collins Hard	David Jones	Carol Steinman
Joe Hodge, student rep.	Cathy Knight	

TICKETS

All seats for theatre events are available by reservation. Reservations may be made by calling 351-2528 or sending e-mail to theatre@parkland.cc.il.us. Discount prices are available to students, school children, senior citizens, and organized groups of fifteen or more. Inquire about our special group rates by calling the theatre's house manager at 351-2476.

WEB SITE

<http://www.parkland.cc.il.us/theatre>

PARKING

Parking lots C4 and M1 are adjacent to the theatre.

HOUSE POLICIES

Taking photographs or using recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited. In consideration of our seated patrons and performers, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.

Please, no eating, drinking, or smoking in the theatre. Cough drops are available from the ushers as a courtesy to our patrons.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Donation of clothing, furniture, hats, jewelry, shoes, and other accessories are appreciated for use in our theatre productions and may be arranged by calling 351-2531.

For additional information about performance events, directions, tours, and parking, please call the theatre at 351-2476.

COMMENTS

Your opinions are very important to us! If you have a compliment, criticism, or suggestion, please call us at 351-2529 or write to Parkland College Theatre, 2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899.



Parkland College
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